45. The display unit of claim 24, further comprising a hinge pivotally coupling the screen to the housing, wherein the hinge includes a stop that retains the screen in the deployed position until urged away from the deployed position.

46. The display unit of claim 24, further includes a locking mechanism adapted to retain the screen in the stowed position.

47. The display unit of claim 46, wherein release of the lock mechanism frees the screen to pivot away from the stowed position, and further wherein the screen is adapted to automatically pivot at least partially away from the stowed position when the lock mechanism is released.

48. The display unit of claim 46, wherein the locking mechanism further includes a catch on the housing positioned to selectively engage a detent in the screen to maintain the screen in the stowed position.

49. The display unit of claim 48, wherein the screen further includes an edge extending generally transverse to the viewing surface, and the catch is on the edge.

50. The display unit of claim 48, wherein the screen further includes an edge extending generally transverse to the viewing surface, and the detent extends inwardly into the screen from the edge.

REMARKS

Responsive to the first Office action, applicant has deleted without prejudice original claims 1-22, and has added new claims 23-50. The Examiner's § 112 and prior-art-based rejections are therefore rendered moot. Applicant believes the new claims distinguish over all art of record.

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

Accordingly, applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

KOLISCH HARTWELL DICKINSON
McCORMACK & HEUSER

David P. Cooper
Registration No. 33,372
Customer PTO No. 23581
Of Attorneys for Applicant/Assignee
520 S.W. Yamhill Street, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204
Telephone: (503) 224-6655
Facsimile: (503) 295-6679

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, BOX FEE AMENDMENT, Washington, D.C. 20231 on June 14, 2002.

Mandi M. Leighty
Mandi M. Leighty

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES BEING MADE

In the Claims:

Cancel without prejudice claims 1-22.

Add the following new claims 23 - 50.

23. In an automobile having a passenger seating area and a generally planar ceiling, an above-seat-level, ceiling-mounted display unit comprising:

a generally planar mounting frame structure joined with the ceiling in a location overhead and generally forward of the passenger seating area in the automobile, the mounting frame structure being joined generally co-planarly with the ceiling and having a proximal portion closer to the passenger seating area and distal portion more remote from the passenger seating area;

a generally planar screen structure hinged to the mounting frame structure adjacent the distal portion thereof for reversibly swaying in an upright plane, extending both through the mounting frame structure and the passenger seating area, between a stowed position wherein the screen structure lies in a plane generally paralleling the plane of the mounting frame structure and a deployed position wherein the screen structure occupies a generally upright plane which lies at an angle relative to the plane of the mounting-frame structure with a disposition overhead-viewable by any passenger seated in the passenger seating area; and

wherein the display unit has a thickness of less than 1.5 inches.

24. An overhead automotive display unit, the display unit comprising:

an automotive-ceiling-mounted housing defining a cavity of a shape and size; and

a screen sized to fit at least partially within the cavity, the screen having a viewing surface and being mounted on the housing for pivotal movement about a first axis extending generally parallel to an edge of the screen between a stowed position wherein the screen is at least partially contained within the cavity of the housing, and a deployed position wherein the screen pivotally projects from the cavity of the housing to present the viewing surface to an automobile occupant, wherein the display unit has a thickness of less than 1.5 inches.

25. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the screen is rotatable about a second axis transverse to the first axis.

26. The display unit of claim 25, wherein the first axis extends along the edge.

27. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the screen is sized to be of the size and shape of the cavity.

28. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the display unit has a thickness of between approximately 0.5 inches and approximately 1.5 inches.

29. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the vehicle includes a ceiling and the display unit is mounted on the ceiling of the vehicle.

30. The display unit of claim 29, wherein the display unit is embedded in the ceiling of the vehicle.

31. The display unit of claim 29, wherein the housing includes a perimeter structure with a flange configured for placement against the ceiling to define a cavity opening, the screen being mounted on the housing such that the viewing surface lies generally flush with the flange when the screen is in the stowed position.

32. The display unit of claim 29, wherein the viewing surface defines a plane generally parallel to the ceiling when the screen is in the stowed position.

33. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the display unit further comprises a control module mounted separately from the screen, the control module being operatively connected to the screen to direct operation of the screen.

34. The display unit of claim 33, wherein the control module is mounted within the housing.

35. The display unit of claim 33, wherein the control module is mounted on the housing in a laterally spaced relationship to the screen.

36. The display unit of claim 35, wherein the control module and the screen extend in the same plane when the screen is in the stowed position.

37. The automotive display unit of claim 24, wherein the screen includes a hinge pivotally coupling the screen with the housing, the screen being pivotal about the hinge between the stowed position and the deployed position under a first torque to provide for deployment of the screen, and being pivotal between the deployed position and a break-away position under a higher second torque to provide for emergency collapse of the screen.

38. The display unit of claim 37, wherein the screen is adapted to pivot forwardly in the vehicle from the stowed position to the deployed position, and further adapted to pivot forwardly in the vehicle from the deployed position to the break-away position.

39. The display unit of claim 37, wherein the deployed position is generally between the stowed and the break-away positions.

40. The display unit of claim 37, wherein the vehicle includes a ceiling and the viewing surface defines a plane extending generally parallel to the ceiling when the screen is in the stowed position.

41. The display unit of claim 37, wherein the vehicle includes a ceiling and the viewing surface defines a plane extending generally parallel to the ceiling when the screen is in the breakaway position.

42. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the screen is completely received within the cavity when the screen is in the stowed position.

43. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the viewing surface is oriented to face the cavity when the screen is in the stowed position.

44. The display unit of claim 24, wherein the viewing surface is oriented to face out of the cavity when the screen is in the stowed position.

45. The display unit of claim 24, further comprising a hinge pivotally coupling the screen to the housing, wherein the hinge includes a stop that retains the screen in the deployed position until urged away from the deployed position.

46. The display unit of claim 24, further includes a locking mechanism adapted to retain the screen in the stowed position.

47. The display unit of claim 46, wherein release of the lock mechanism frees the screen to pivot away from the stowed position, and further wherein the screen is adapted to automatically pivot at least partially away from the stowed position when the lock mechanism is released.

48. The display unit of claim 46, wherein the locking mechanism further includes a catch on the housing positioned to selectively engage a detent in the screen to maintain the screen in the stowed position.

49. The display unit of claim 48, wherein the screen further includes an edge extending generally transverse to the viewing surface, and the catch is on the edge.

50. The display unit of claim 48, wherein the screen further includes an edge extending generally transverse to the viewing surface, and the detent extends inwardly into the screen from the edge.